GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
INDIAN NATIONALS UNDER SAUDI ARABIA CUSTODY
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals held hostage in the Arab countries including Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian nationals emigrating to the Arab countries in search of better opportunities are treated as slaves by the companies over there;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken up this issue with the respective Governments; and

(d) if so, the number of Indian nationals residing over there at present even after the expiry of their visa period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Nil, as far as the Government is aware, barring those held by pirates in Somalia.

(b) & (c) No. Government of India does not receive complaints regarding Indian Nationals emigrating to the Arab countries in search of better opportunities being taken hostages or treated like slaves by the authorities concerned/companies. However our Missions and Posts in the Arab region do receive complaints of other nature. Whenever such complaints are received, Missions/Posts immediately take up the issues with the concerned employers and/or local authorities with a view to arrive at an expeditious and amicable settlement. Government of India, through its Missions/ Posts in the Arab countries, has taken several measures and initiatives to protect the rights of Indian workers.

(d) The number of Indian nationals residing in the Arab countries after expiry of their visa period in not available with Government of India.